

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 NIC-01 CU-04 EUR-25

SCA-01 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 310850Z JAN 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1316

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ETRD, CH, HK, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN FIRM PLANS CHINA CRUISE SHIP VISIT

REF: STATE 12856, HONG KONG 850

1. ON JANUARY 28 USLO RECEIVED A CABLE FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS INTERNATIONAL, TOKYO (INTAMEX) SOLICITING OUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING PRC PERMISSION FOR TWO TOURS INTAMEX IS PLANNING TO SPONSOR THIS SUMMER. EACH TOUR WOULD CONSIST OF 800 AMERICAN AND 800 JAPANESE STUDENTS WHO WOULD VISIT SHANGHAI AND TIENTSIN (WITH AN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO PEKING) ON BOARD A RUSSIAN PASSENGER VESSEL. INTAMEX POINTED OUT THAT SHIPS OF OTHER FLAGS ARE UNAVAILABLE.

2. USLO INFORMED INTAMEX BY CABLE THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF PRIVATE GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS WHO WISH TO VISIT CHINA AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE FIRM CONTACT THE PRC EMBASSY IN TOKYO. WE ARE ALSO WRITING INTAMEX A LETTER, COPIES OF WHICH WILL BE POUCHED ADDRESSEES.

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3. COMMENT: TWO FLOATING UNIVERSITIES WITH JAPANESE STUDENTS

AND TEACHERS VISITED TIENTSIN (AND PEKING) AND SHANGHAI LAST FALL, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE PRC WOULD GIVE THE SAME CONSIDERATION TO THE INTAMEX STUDENT VISIT IDEA. IN ANY EVENT, THE DECISION TO USE A RUSSIAN VESSEL WILL DOUBTLESS INK THE PROPOSAL IN SHORT ORDER. RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF FORTHCOMING VISITS TO CANTON BY PASSENGERS OF TWO CRUISE SHIPS THAT WILL DOCK IN HONG KONG, AND OF THE PRC'S APPARENT INTEREST IN FILLING HOTEL ROOMS IN CANTON, CAN BE EXPECTED TO SPUR EFFORTS BY FOREIGN TOURISTS ORGANIZATIONS TO OPEN OTHER CHINA PORTS OF CALL. THE INTAMEX PROPOSAL MAY ONLY BE THE FIRST OF MANY THAT WILL COME TO OUR ATTENTION. THERE IS ALSO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT IN PEKING THAT A CRUISE SHIP WITH AMERICAN PASSENGERS, ARRANGED BY A NORWEIGIAN COMPANY, WILL VISIT CHANGHAI AND INCLUDE A SIDE TRIP TO SOOCHOW.

JENKINS

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